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| <b>TO:</b>      | GC3-Lakelands Food and Hunger Alliance                 |
| <b>FROM:</b>    | Justo Chalaire, Community Engagement & Data Specialist |
| <b>SUBJECT:</b> | LFHA Meeting Summary                                   |
| <b>DATE:</b>    | November 30th, 2023                                    |

Thank you to all who attended the LFHA meeting for the Greenwood Counts Community Consortium.

Below is a summary of each portion of our meeting with a direct link to the video recording for that portion:

- Justo C. welcomed the LFHA Members and initiated introductions organization updates. In attendance were Britney Mazyck, Bryan Yebba, April Ouzts, Trish Buis, Zach Rubin, Patsy Garcia, and Justo Chalaire.

**Organization Updates**

- Justo Chalaire shared that the UC3 Resource Connection Hub has 290 cases completed that improved access to services including food.
- Patsy Garcia shared that PTC Hope Pantry has extended its hours Monday and Tuesday from 9am-12pm and Wednesday and Thursday from 1-4 pm.
- Bryan Y. provided community gardens update that they have produced 300 lbs of produce primarily going to the foodbank and soup kitchen and a seed library is being initiated at the Greenwood Library.
- Zach R. shared that the Bear Necessities food pantry has continued to be successful in providing food to college students and recently had a pizza party for volunteers.
- April Ouzts provided an update for senior voucher trainings for Market Managers.
- Britney Mazyck shared that Community Initiatives is providing Flu Shots

**LFHA Updates**

- Justo shared that our \$25,000 LFHA CDG Budget has been signed and \$15,000 in funds are ready to be utilized. He also shared that Greenwood Food Resource Map on lakelandscounts.org has been added to a flyer in partnership with DHEC. A goal of 1000 copies to be distributed by January was set. A shared drive is available to track.
- Justo shared that the GC3 Impact Tracker is available for LFHA members to include their organizational impact. This will show a collective effort to reduce food insecurity.
- We then discussed updates on the GC3 Community Survey that GC3 partners and organizations worked collectively to administer to learn about healthcare challenges, food insecurity, and mental health issues in Greenwood, SC. 380 Surveys were completed which puts us right at our goal. 10 Gift Cards have been distributed to random participants. The data team reviewed survey results on October 12<sup>th</sup> from 1-4 p.m. and finalized a theme chart based on listening session transcriptions. Zach Rubin provided insights from the survey and listening sessions. Another Data Team meeting is scheduled for December 5<sup>th</sup>.

- The group then discussed our Community Listening Sessions. This aligned with strategy #1 from our action plan. The target location was census tract 970500. Community partners that serve this area provided participants and space to implement listening sessions (Morris Chapel, Our Lady of Lourdes, Soup Kitchen, Food Bank). 12 GC3 members were trained in facilitation and all four listening sessions were completed. Some takeaways were that seniors rely on neighbors for help with food, single parents with kids struggle to make ends meet and sacrifice food cost to pay other bills, felons are limited on job opportunities and do not qualify for SNAP, transportation is an issue for many in this census tract to reach more affordable grocery stores, Finances are a problem but financial coaching could be a solution, record expungement could be a solution, transportation services could be a solution.

Action items that came from the meeting:

- Data and Analytics team to analyze and generate reports from listening sessions and the GC3 Community Survey.
- 1000 Food Resource Guides to be Distributed at discussed locations by January of 2024. Each member tracks how many they distribute and reports on the shared drive - [https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1RsAMJY7snzO3\\_rishZMpM-uRsrufouW2Wpl\\_w7UU3AM/edit#gid=2127333737](https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1RsAMJY7snzO3_rishZMpM-uRsrufouW2Wpl_w7UU3AM/edit#gid=2127333737)
- Add Organizational Data into GC3 Impact Tracker <https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1EBnfc5Q1S5VKiE7mxGwDtmFUslxa9sckJD51dQ6tJmQ/edit#gid=89183484>
- Continuously update the Lakelands Counts Food Resource Guide.
- Promote the Unite Us referral platform to the Alliance. - [Unite Us Video Link](#)
- Review the Turn the Curve Action Plan at the start of the new year.
- GC3 Members to advertise the Food and Hunger Alliance and invite one member to the group.
- GC3 Members to share trainings and updates to Justo at [jchalaire@uwlakelands.org](mailto:jchalaire@uwlakelands.org) to be sent among the group and to the community.
- Attend our next meeting on **Thursday, December 28<sup>th</sup>** .

[https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/4BDQMOndmw2EKnBDXhdXNP5iB0PcriipIc2Mw5I4b6Fb12\\_lbLyDeKwkMly3IN\\_r.hTW3V1YKxISXlpcl](https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/4BDQMOndmw2EKnBDXhdXNP5iB0PcriipIc2Mw5I4b6Fb12_lbLyDeKwkMly3IN_r.hTW3V1YKxISXlpcl)

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### **Additional AI Summary:**

The meeting began with updates on the United Ways of the Lakelands' resource connection hub and attendees introducing themselves and their organizations. Attendees shared updates on their progress in improving access to care and services in their community, including expanding hours for a food pantry and touring a seed library. The group discussed distributing flyers and updating the Food Resource Guide, with a goal of distributing 1,000 flyers and tracking the impact of their efforts through various trackers. They also discussed the importance of measuring the impact of their collective efforts and using results-based accountability to do so.

The group also discussed policy initiatives for felons' benefits and employment opportunities, including the focus on Ebt Benefits, Snap Benefits for Drug Felons, and the removal of the "Have you ever been convicted of a felony?" box in job applications. Justo Chalaire discussed the themes that emerged from the listening sessions and surveys, including access to healthy cooking and financial constraints.

The group also discussed potential solutions for public transportation in the area, including creative funding opportunities and advocating for government buy-in. The meeting ended with a reminder of an open secretary position and a positive outlook on the progress made in the discussion.